

***PARTNERS OUTDOORS 2012:
BEYOND FLREA: RECREATION FEES AND
OTHER STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES ON FEDERAL LANDS***

Date: **January 8-11, 2012** (*Sunday beginning at 2 p.m., with a Monday “on the road seminar”, and concluding Tuesday with dinner. Related follow-up meetings may be held on Wednesday*)

Location: **Kingsmill Resort and Conference Center** (www.kingsmill.com/meetings/)
1010 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Telephone:
800-832-5665/757-253-107/757-253-1703.

Theme: ***Beyond the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA):
Recreation Fees and Other Strategies for Funding Recreation Opportunities on
Federal Lands.***

Participants in Partners Outdoors 2012 will participate in 2 ½ days of plenary sessions, action team meetings and informal sharing. General sessions will focus on a review of current and potential recreation infrastructure and operations funding, including use of fee receipts, special taxes, concessions and permit strategies, partnerships and more, that will provide visitors with quality experiences. In addition to focusing on experiences of FLREA – which must be reauthorized by 2014 – participants will review key strategies and authorities used for ski areas in national forests, concessions and commercial leases in national parks, NAFI (Non-Appropriated Funding Instrumentalities) used at Department of Defense bases, partnerships with nonprofits and other creative solutions used on Federal lands, and invite presentations on creative funding strategies used by state and regional recreation providers, as well. Information on proven, long-term funding programs, including hunting and fishing, will be provided. Finally, discussion is encouraged regarding alternative funding strategies reflecting the health and educational benefits of Federal recreation sites.

Action teams will focus on: (1) revisions to the Federal Recreation Fee Program that will improve efficiency, public acceptance and fairness; (2) new and sustainable funding strategies which should be piloted on Federal lands; and (3) mechanisms for assessing recreationist desires and satisfaction levels for experiences on Federal lands.

Participants also will take part in an on-the-road seminar; view operations within the region; and be briefed on the financial models employed. Anticipated stops include Colonial Williamsburg, a nonprofit enterprise, and the Colonial National Historical Park.

Participation:

Participation in Partners Outdoors is by invitation only and will be restricted to approximately 125 attendees. Invitations are extended by sponsoring organizations, including seven Federal agencies, the National Association of State Park Directors and the American Recreation Coalition. Attendees hold senior management positions in the recreation and resources fields or are identified as candidates for such posts. Confirmation of attendance and room reservations at the Kingsmill Resort are required by December 15, 2011.

Accommodations:

The Partners Outdoors meeting and overnight accommodations will be held at the Kingsmill Resort and Conference Center in Williamsburg, Virginia, a modern and large complex with traditional guest rooms and other lodging options.

Participants are offered a special rate of \$96.00/night single or double, which is the approved Federal per diem rate for the area, plus 5% state sales tax, 5% occupancy tax, and \$2.00 per night local occupancy tax. *Each Federal agency partner will compile a list of its participants and forward that list to the American Recreation Coalition. Non-Federal participants will complete a registration form and send it to ARC. The ARC will make all initial room reservations and advise all participants to contact the resort to **provide credit-card information to finalize the reservation with a one-night deposit. Deposits are only refundable for cancellations received no later than 5 days prior to arrival.***

Transportation:

The drive to the Kingsmill Conference Center is approximately 2 ½ hours from Washington, D.C., Washington Reagan and Dulles International Airports via Interstates 95 and 64. The resort location is also served by three nearby international airports: Richmond (50 miles), Norfolk (44 miles) and Newport News (20 miles). Amtrak service, which is three miles from the hotel, is available to Williamsburg, and serviced by the hotel shuttle.

Tuition/Event Costs:

Each participant will be charged a fee of \$495.00, for all materials, meals, conference facilities and group transportation offered in conjunction with the Partners Outdoors 2012 conference. The fee may be sent to the American Recreation Coalition (1225 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 450, Washington, D.C. 20005) before the conference, or may be paid on-site at the time of registration. ***No refunds for cancellations will be honored after December 15, 2011.*** Checks should be made payable to the American Recreation Coalition. ***Provisions for guests at selected events can be arranged at an additional charge and should be requested in advance and in writing.***

Displays:

There will be limited areas for the display of materials relating to partnership activities between Federal agencies and for-profit enterprises. Arrangements should be made through the American Recreation Coalition at 202-682-9530.

Expected Outcomes:

Central objectives of Partners Outdoors 2012 are: (1) increase understanding about revisions to the Federal Recreation Fee Program that would allow broad agency and public support; (2) assess opportunities for linking healthcare programs, including wellness efforts, and educational programs to public lands operations and maintenance fiscal needs; (3) increase understanding about current and potential authorities for funding capital and operational costs of recreation programs on public lands and waters; (4) design and recommend pilot efforts to replace recreation services now funded through annual appropriations with sustainable alternative strategies; and (5) make recommendations to agency leadership and the recreation and tourism industries about effective monitoring visitor desires and satisfaction levels, including value satisfaction.

Attire:

Dress during the meetings at Partners Outdoors 2012 will be “business casual,” but recreational attire will also be appropriate at most sessions.